

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089228
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 MCE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JRRATIGAN:CSR
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
-----029033 070343Z /65

P R 062330Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS STATE 089228

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR,CY,TU

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SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY ON GREECE, TURKEY AND
CYPRUS BEFORE HIRC

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY GENERAL DAVID C. JONES,
CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ON FY 1979
SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE, TURKEY , AND CYPRUS
BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, APRIL

6, 1978:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ARE CONCERNED OVER THE CURRENT
SITUATION INVOLVING GREECE AND TURKEY, TWO VALUABLE ALLIES
AND FRIENDS WHOSE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VITAL TO MAIN-
TAINING A STRONG POLITICAL AND MILITARY POSTURE IN THE STRA-
TEGICALLY IMPORTANT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, THEIR CONTROL OVER
SEA AND AIR EXITS FROM THE BLACK SEA AREA, AND DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NATO, GREECE AND
TURKEY CONSTITUTE A VITAL LINK IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE SYS-
TEM. BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY POSSESS EXCELLENT NAVAL AND
AIR FACILITIES WHICH IN THE EVENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS
COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SUPPORTING OPERATIONS OF UNITED
STATES FORCES IN NATO'S SOUTHERN REGION. FURTHERMORE, A

LOOK AT THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERR-
ANEAN, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE PERSIAN GULF AREA MAKES IT
APPARENT THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY CONSTITUTE THE GATE-
WAY INTO THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT REGION.

INDEED, IN THE EVENT OF A PROLONGED CRISIS REQUIRING THE
DEPLOYMENT OF US OR ALLIED FORCES OR THE LOGISTIC SUPPORT
OF AN ALLY, THE COOPERATION OF GREECE AND TURKEY COULD BE
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ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVEMENT OF NATO OBJECTIVES.

GREEK AND TURKISH NATIONAL FORCES LINKED TO NATO CONSTITUTE
A MAJOR DETERRENT TO POSSIBLE SOVIET AMBITIONS OR INFLU-
ENCE IN THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE, THEY TIE DOWN MAJOR
SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCES WHICH OTHERWISE COULD BE
COMMITTED TO THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION.

WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, THE UNITED STATES SEEKS TO PROMOTE
COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE GREEK AND TURKISH MILITARY PAR-
TICIPATION AND TO ENHANCE THEIR STRATEGIC POSITION AS A
BARRIER TO POSSIBLE EXPANSION OR EXPORT OF SOVIET POWER.
THIS MEANS ASSISTING GREECE AND TURKEY IN MAINTAINING A
MODERN AND COMBAT READY MILITARY POSTURE TO DETER AGGRES-
SION AND, IF DETERRENCE FAILS, TO HAVE THE MEANS OF DEFEN-
DING NATO TERRITORY IN COOPERATION WITH THE ALLIANCE.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE JOINT CHIEFS IS THE IMPACT
OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO AND SUBSEQUENT US ARMS SALES
RESTRICTIONS ON TURKEY. BECAUSE THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES
ARE EQUIPPED ALMOST TOTALLY WITH OLDER US EQUIPMENT, THEY
ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEPENDENT

UPON ACCESS TO US SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, OLD-
ER ITEMS IN THEIR INVENTORY ARE BECOMING DIFFICULT TO
SUPPORT THROUGH OUR LOGISTICS SOURCES BECAUSE PARTS ARE,
OR WILL BE, NON-AVAILABLE. THUS, THEY ALSO NEED REPLACE-
MENT SYSTEMS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN HIS 21 MARCH PEN-
TAGON PRESS CONFERENCE, GENERAL HAIG STATED THAT BY 1980
THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES WILL BE FACED WITH A WALL OF OB-
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ARMED FORCES OF THIS IMPORTANT ALLY WILL CONTINUE TO DE-
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THAT A MILITARILY WEAK TURKEY OR GREECE WOULD DEGRADE
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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/SE:MCFINROW
APPROVED BY:EUR/SE:RCEWING
-----096814 121216Z /15

R 121120Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN 6621

UNCLAS STATE 089228

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 089228 SENT ACTION ATHENS ANKARA

NICOSIA INFO ISTANBUL BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON USNATO
ADANA IZMIR BONN USUN NEW YORK USDOCOSOUTH USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR USCINCEUR CINCUSAFE APR 06.
QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 089228

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VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE089228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRRATIGAN:CSR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0007
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780484/aaaactn.tel
Line Count: 270
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7db6d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3049438
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY ON GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS BEFORE HIRC FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY GENERAL DAVID C.
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, CY, TU
To: ATHENS ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7db6d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014